

Resolution No.:	<u>15-1217</u>
Introduced:	<u>November 8, 2005</u>
Adopted:	<u>November 15, 2005</u>

**COUNTY COUNCIL
FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND**

By: County Council

Subject: County Council's FY 2007 Process for Grant Proposals from Non-Profit Agencies to provide Health and Human Services and Community Activities

Background

1. As a part of the budget process, the County Executive recommends appropriations to be implemented through sole source contracts that serve as grants to non-profit agencies to assist the County in providing health and human services and community activities. These grants are either reviewed by the Executive through a competitive process or as private agency requests. The County Council as a part of its budget responsibilities reviews the Executive's recommendations and considers private agency requests that come directly to the County Council.
2. In FY 2004 the Council requested the Office of Legislative Oversight conduct a study to allow the Council to better understand the County Government's multiple practices for selecting non-profit service providers and how the County administers grant programs and the non-competitive award designation list. The OLO study looked at policies that affect these appropriations such as ensuring a competitive procurement process; building the capacity of non-profit providers individually and as a network; securing effective human services for vulnerable populations; and, connecting contract awards with the County's human services goals and priorities.
3. Between July 2004 and February 2005, the Health and Human Services and Management and Fiscal Policy Committees met jointly to discuss the Council's process for reviewing and appropriating grants. On March 1, 2005 the Council adopted Resolution 15-905 which outlined the Council's review process for FY 2006. The resolution said that the Council would solicit applications for grants to support health and human services and community development activities; convene a Grants Advisory Group to provide non-binding and non-prioritized comments on grant proposals; require all organizations to submit a County Council grant application form by a stated deadline (except those that

were recommended by the County Executive through a competitive process); require at least one Councilmember nominate a proposal for it to be reviewed by the Grants Advisory Group; allow one or more Councilmembers to nominate a proposal that had been through the review process for funding through the reconciliation list process; allow five or more Councilmembers to place a proposal on the reconciliation list even if the organization did not meet the stated deadlines.

4. In June 2005, the Health and Human Services and Management and Fiscal Policy Committees met jointly to hear comments from the Grant Advisory Group and non-profit organizations regarding the FY 2006 process. During October 2005, the joint Committees held worksession to find ways to improve the Council grant process for FY 2007 and to develop recommendations for the full Council.

Action

The County Council for Montgomery County, Maryland approves the following resolution:

1. The County Council affirms that partnerships with the non-profit community are critical to meeting needs for health and human services and community development activities. These partnerships may come through competitive contracts and grants and from proposals made directly from the non-profit community to the County Executive or County Council.
2. For FY 2007, the County Council will continue to have a grants review process that will require non-profit organizations seeking funds for these purposes to submit a Council grant application form or other acceptable form (such as a Community Services Grant application). The application and specific procedures will be posted on the Council's website by December 1, 2005. The deadline for applications will be February 15, 2006. While the Council is not interested in a burdensome application process, a common requirement for information enhances the Council's decision process and improves the County's accountability to taxpayers.
3. The Council will reach out to non-profit organizations through existing mailing lists, the media, and with a grant application workshop in order to facilitate an open and fair process. This effort will work to inform all non-profit organizations, especially emerging organizations, about what they may seek funds for and what the requirements are to receive County funds through a non-competitive contract.
4. The Council is not placing limits on the types of proposals non-profits may submit. The Council places a special importance on funding proposals from non-profit partners that help to address the needs of those in our community who are least able to assist themselves.

5. The Council will convene a Grant Advisory Group as a part of the FY 2007 process. The Advisory Group will be asked to provide the Council with comments on each of the proposals. The timeline for FY 2007 should allow the Advisory Group to have time to contact an organization for a response to questions or in some cases conduct a site visit. As in FY 2006, the Advisory Group will not be asked to prioritize the proposals or specifically make a recommendation for or against funding any specific proposal. The Advisory Group will be appointed by February 7, 2006 and will be asked to report to the Council by April 24, 2006.
6. All grant proposals received by the February 15 deadline will be reviewed by the Grants Advisory Group. For any proposal received after the February 15 deadline, a majority of the Council will determine whether a proposal is referred to the Advisory Group or given further consideration in the budget process.
7. Any grant application that is determined to be requesting funds for an arts or humanities program will be referred to the Arts and Humanities Council of Montgomery County (AHCMC) for review and comment rather than to the County Council's Grants Advisory Group. The County Council will specifically seek comment from AHCMC as to whether the proposed program could be considered through one of the current AHCMC grant programs and the timeline for consideration should the County Council direct the applicant to AHCMC for possible funding. As a part of the County Council's FY 2006 operating budget actions, the Council determined that grant funds for arts and humanities organizations should be disbursed and managed by AHCMC. The County Council further requested that AHCMC propose a consolidated arts and humanities budget for FY 2007 and encouraged all arts and humanities organizations to apply for grant funding through AHCMC.
8. As has been the Council's practice, all grants not included in the County Executive's Recommended Budget will be considered through the reconciliation list process. The Council may also choose to make final decisions about grants that have been recommended by the Executive through the reconciliation list process.

This is a correct copy of Council action.



Linda M. Lauer, Clerk of the Council